

Big Ox employee rushed to hospital after sustaining minor chemical burns

Ty Rushing trushing@siouxcityjournal.com

-
-
-
-
-

Powered by  [Translate](#)



The exterior of Big Ox Energy is seen in this photo taken in South Sioux City on Oct. 24.

SOUTH SIOUX CITY — Emergency responders were called to the Big Ox Energy plant in South Sioux City shortly before 2 p.m. after two employees were exposed to unidentified chemicals.

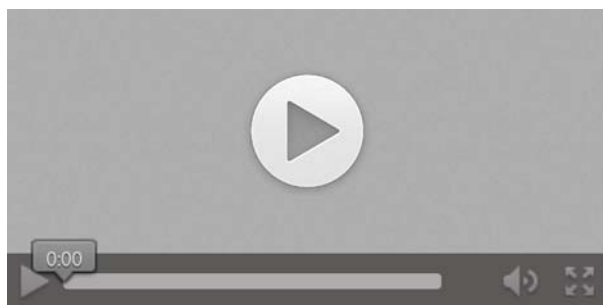
One employee sustained minor chemical burns and was rushed to a local medical center where the person is still being treated, according to Kevin Bradley, a spokesman for Big Ox. The second employee also was taken to the hospital as a precaution, but has since been released.

"Like any kind of industrial accident or incident — as the case may be — we certainly will be working with OSHA on this and we'll report as we are required as so on and we'll work cooperatively with them," Bradley said.

Big Ox is in the midst of an Occupational Safety and Health Administration investigation that began in October after someone on site was hospitalized due to an exposure to hydrogen sulfide.

Additionally, another employee was injured in December after being exposed to hydrogen sulfide, which can

cause death after prolonged exposure, according to OSHA.



Advertisement (1 of 1): 0:12

Loaded: 0%

Progress: 0%

0:00

Hydrogen sulfide is a colorless gas produced by bacterial breakdown of organic material. It's typically associated with a rotten egg smell and can occur at plants like Big Ox, which converts organic waste into methane gas.

Get news headlines sent daily to your inbox

The October incident that first sparked the OSHA investigation was reported about the same time as several homeowners in South Sioux City began reporting foul odors emanating from the sewer system they share with the plant. The odors have been traced to sulfides originating from the facility. The problem forced the residents out of their homes to live at hotels in town at Big Ox's expense.

In addition to reporting this latest incident to OSHA, Bradley said Big Ox will conduct its own investigation into the matter.

"We will conduct our own investigation with our safety personnel to make sure that if there are any corrective actions that need to be put in place they are to ensure we have a safe workplace for our employees," he said.



sponsored by



[Ventura loses appeal to reinstate \\$1.8M verdict](#)

Brakes, balance, maneuverability, ease of folding, and safety are wheelchair musts. All of o...

214 W 7th St, Sioux City, IA 51103

712-277-2273

Currently Open

Creative Carpets is proud to be a locally owned and operated business with customer satisfac...

3809 Gordon Dr, Sioux City, IA 51106

712-255-3406

Currently Open

Schrunk Roofing is a locally owned and operated business with 12 years of experience serving...

2625 S Cleveland St, Sioux City, IA 51106

712-204-2206

Currently Open